



N. T. TRUE, S. L. HOARDMAN, Editors.

Our Home, Our Country, and our Brother Man.

The Hay Field.

As we travel through the State of Maine we instinctively look first at a man's hay field, and then see whether it is in a good state of cultivation. If these two conditions are not satisfactory we are exceedingly apt to set the farm down as not the first class. It was a homely, but true remark of a man in our hearing, lately, that a man can do well anywhere if he has grass enough. Even if a man has but a few acres, a highly productive grass field is a sure indication of prosperity. No man can carry on farming extensively in Maine who does not make his hay field and pasture of the first importance. Without it he cannot raise stock, make butter and cheese, or obtain manure to good advantage. With the present prices of labor probably no easier way can be found for carrying on a farm than by devoting as much of the land as possible to the raising of hay. Strong granite soils will demand deep tillage and thorough manuring, and the cultivation of other crops preparatory to raising grass. Low wet lands may be top dressed, and deep musk meadows may be drained, smoothed down and made productive. The price of hay will in all probability, range higher than it has heretofore. The prices of butter, of cheese and bacon cannot be so low as formerly. These will have a tendency to keep up the price of hay, while the facilities for cutting, curing and storing away hay have increased so much that a first class hay farm, with all these modern improvements is exceedingly valuable.

The increased attention given to the hay crop has not yet stimulated many farmers to improve their pasture. To make a good farm, a good pasture is as necessary as a good hay field. Young stock, and milch cows especially, can only bring a profit to the owner by having good feed during the summer months. That is the time when their bones and muscles are developed to the best advantage, and if they fail at this season of the year in their earlier growth they can never overcome the difficulty. We should like to see the experiment tried of devoting thirty acres of good land suitable for a hay field to both hay and pasture in the right proportions to support the same number of cattle during summer and winter. We are aware how reluctant any of us are to give up an acre of land to pasture out of which we can make a field, but it is a point worthy of serious consideration whether, to carry our best ideas out of farming, and that to secure the best results at the least expense, more good land should be devoted to pasture, and a rotation from pasture to field be brought about after a series of years. We would not say this of all farms or of all soils, but we do believe there are multitudes of farms in Maine where it would be a positive improvement.

On many farms on the line of railroads, and in the vicinity of large towns, hay is now raised largely for market. This practice is increasing, but whether the farms so situated will be kept up in fertility will depend upon the energy and ability of the farmer. A farmer in Freeport, whose farm is near the shore, has hauled on to it four hundred cords of muscle mud the past winter. He will secure an abundant crop of hay, and can sell his hay at almost Boston prices of his own wharf. Men differently situated can convert their hay into sheep, cows and oxen, and sell them at a better advantage than to sell hay. Thus different circumstances must modify the management of our farms of which the shrewd business farmer will not fail to take advantage.

Storm Signals during Harvest.

Last season we made some reference to the plan proposed by Mr. Watson for signaling the approach of storms during harvest time by means of telegraphic reports and the firing of cannon from each county seat. This gentleman has just issued a circular upon this subject, in which the statement is made that more than one-fourth of the grain and hay crops are, on an average, injured annually by storms during harvest. Large quantities are cut down, and then a storm comes on suddenly, or a settled rain, and they get wet to a degree that they are materially damaged. If farmers had warning of these approaching storms, in time to get their hay or grain under cover, or in a situation to shut out the rain, much of this injury would be prevented. By the plan proposed by Mr. Watson, he is confident this can be effected. This plan is to transmit the knowledge of coming storms by telegraph, to all county seats and principal towns they are likely to reach, provided a cannon is in readiness to announce the fact. Very rapid, or slow advancing storms, to be indicated by firing this cannon three times, respectively at intervals of one, three or six minutes. As a good sized cannon can be heard distinctly from 15 to 20 miles in every direction from the place of firing, or over a space of from 30 to 40 miles square, by firing one at each county seat and principal town the farmers over the whole country in harvest time, will be warned to stop cutting, and to get their grain or hay under cover, or in a situation to shut out the rain; thus saving not only that portion which has been cut and cured previous to the warning, but also saving that portion which otherwise would have been cut during several hours or a whole day, without such warning.

We learn that the plan is approved by the telegraph company generally, and that the Western Union Company, the leading organization of the kind, will supply the necessary telegrams, "wherever any considerable number of cities and towns shall make arrangements to fire signal guns, according to the plan proposed." For the purpose of putting the system to a practical test, the originator of it gives the following generous offer: "To any city or town having a suitable cannon, I will see that telegrams of approaching storms and hurricanes are furnished free, and will pay in advance the expenses of firing the guns for three months, to fifty cities or towns that shall be the first to make arrangements to fire the storm guns according to the plan proposed."

Parties interested can communicate with Mr. Watson, whose address is Washington, D. C., and we certainly hope the importance of the matter will stimulate some persons in our own State to at once take advantage of the above proposition of Mr. Watson.

Bee-Notes.

PARASITES OF THE HONEY BEE. In the June number of the *American Naturalist*, Prof. A. S. Packard, Jr., describes and figures many kinds of insects that are parasites of the honey bee, that is, insects that live upon, injure, and finally destroy the bee. Among them are many species of ichneumons flies which are the most common insect parasites, together with different species of *Tachina* and its allied genera. Of the latter is that formidable foe of the bee-hive, which sometimes produces the disease known as "fool brood," analogous to the typhus fever of man. Aside from these are the bee-louse, several kinds of beetles, and also parasitic worms. The above are actually found in Europe, and are seldom seen in this country. Our wild bees, however, are subjected to many insect deparasitizers, and for the purpose of gathering information in regard to them, Mr. Packard calls upon those interested to assist him in collecting material for this purpose. His directions to collectors are as follows: "For a proper study of our bees and wasps, we should collect their nests from the last of May until late in the autumn. We should watch for the different broods and collect the larva, pupa, and adult of both sexes, as well as the workers. The bees containing the young, with whatever parasites may be found on them, may be placed in alcohol, while the mature bees may be pinned. The simplest method of collecting the nests of humble-bees is to visit them before sunrise or after sunset, when the bees are in the nest, and we can secure the whole colony. The bees can be picked up with forceps as they emerge from the nest, or caught with the net and then pinned. Refractory colonies may be easily quelled by pouring in ether or chloroform, or burning sulphur at the aperture, as is the best method of procedure with wasp's nests."

Mr. Packard would be grateful for any specimens of the young bees in alcohol, as well as their parasites and nests; and would also like to correspond with parties interested in the study of our bees and wasps. His address is Salem, Mass.

WHITE CLOVER—BEES. Some one has raised the question whether or not the white clover, (which as all dairymen know is far more valuable as a forage plant than the red clover) is of less value for milk cows after the honey bees have had free access to it and drawn therefrom a larger portion of its saccharine matter. This question is taken up by Mr. Wagner, editor of the *American Bee Journal*, who shows that the nectar of flowers is really—instead of being, as many suppose a secretion intended by nature to attract bees and other insects for the purpose of fertilizing plants—an excretion, designed to rid the plant of superfluous matter by natural process. While it is known that the white clover plant affords better forage for cows than the red, it is also known that the latter is never visited by the bees. Consequently here is a fair way to test the matter, and is one that carries on the face of it evidence that the bees do not render the white clover less valuable for dairy cows by obtaining honey from it. The *Bee Journal* says upon this point: "Obviously the milk producing qualities of a plant do not depend on their retention or absence of the flower itself, but on the quality of the nectar produced by the flower."

The cows are fed on hay three times a day, no more nor less, and are watered and cleaned up after each feeding. This is done at 6 A.M., 1 P.M., and 8 P.M. The amount of hay fed to this cow did not vary from twenty five pounds a day; smaller cows take about twenty pounds.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

The Maine Farmer.

Augusta, Saturday, June 27, 1868.

TERMS OF THE MAINE FARMER.

\$2.00 in advance, or \$2.50 if sent postpaid within three months of the date of subscription.

EP These terms will be rigidly adhered to in all cases.

All payments made by subscribers to the Farmer will be credited in accordance with our new mailing method. The printed date upon the paper, in connection with the subscriber's name, will show the time to which he has paid, and will constitute, in all cases, a valid receipt for money remitted by him.

EP A subscriber desiring to change his post office or his paper must communicate to us the name of the office to which it has previously been sent; otherwise we shall be unable to comply with his request.

COLLECTORS' NOTICE.

Mr. V. A. Dooling is now engaged in canvassing Cumberland County.

Mr. C. S. Atwell will visit the northern towns in Kennebec County during the month of May.

Mr. S. L. Small will call upon subscribers in Piscataquis County during the month of June.

Learning from Others.

Man differs from the brute in his ready ability to impart and receive instruction from each other. The lower orders of animals never have this faculty. The alligator is independent of all others of his species in securing his food. The higher orders of the brutes and birds take care of their young. The bear and the ant do the same, but in all their operations they do little more than exercise their instinct. At any rate they never communicate to each other any new idea or general principle. This makes an impassable gulf between the brute and man. Yet we find among men a vast difference in this respect. Some seem to go through life without ever receiving or wishing to receive from others, or of imparting what they know to others. We never think such persons can be very happy, and certainly they do not add to the enjoyment of those with whom they have intercourse.

This noble attribute of man is the one that renders society intelligent. In fact it is what constitutes civilization. Did not man have this power of receiving instruction from others he would never progress much in knowledge. A man might spend a whole lifetime in trying to invent a mowing machine, and fail. A thousand men might do the same, but when some one did succeed the thousand men could take advantage of the life work of one man and learn all about it in five minutes. Hence this principle in man is a great labor-saving one. The man who lives isolated from the world always labors under terrible disadvantages, because he cannot take advantage of the knowledge of others.

We always regard it a good sign in a mechanic or farmer whenever he manifests a disposition to watch the operations of others engaged in the same business. A stirring farmer visits the agricultural operations of an intelligent and successful man, and is sure to find something new and valuable. It is rare that we meet a man from whom we cannot learn something new and valuable if he is disposed to communicate his knowledge.

It is on this principle that we hold our agricultural fairs, so that in a day or two the farmer may see the operations of others, and frequently the best way in which a thing is done. New implements are introduced to his notice, and he goes home resolved to have them.

A communicative man is almost always a good neighbor, a cheerful man in company, pleasant and lovable in his family, and useful as a citizen. He will not suffer himself to be wrapped up in selfishness. A man, on the other hand, who thinks it beneath him to be a learner will generally prove a wofully ignorant man whose self-conceit blinds him to his own ignorance, but which is no more than this to others.

The only caution we would give here is that of exercising our own independent judgment on all matters presented to us. We should never lose sight of that, or we should not be sport of every charlatan that comes along, and who would cheat us at every move we make. Whoever reads a good newspaper or a good book finds embodied there the knowledge of others, and this is what renders us so much superior in wisdom in many things over our ancestors.

EXHIBITION OF MAINE HORSES.

We desire to call the attention of those of our readers interested in the improvement of the breeds of horses of our State to the article in another column from the pen of Mr. Thomas S. Lang, of North Vassalboro', proposing the holding of an exhibition of Maine Horses at some central and accessible point in our State during the coming autumn. The proposition is one that will commend itself to all interested in the development of this branch of our rural industry—a branch we may add, that has been the means of bringing large sums of money into our State, and of establishing a reputation for Maine horses hardly second to that of any other State in the Union—and conducted, as we are sure it will be, upon a honorable and honest basis, it can not but be a successful exhibition, and do much towards reaching the desired point in breeding which Mr. Lang has so ably alluded to in his communication. There is no gentleman in Maine who has done more for the advancement of this great interest of the State, none who have worked harder, more patiently, or more unremittingly, than Mr. Lang, and there is no one in whom our people have greater confidence. The proposition for such an exhibition as has been proposed, therefore, coming from such a source, should receive earliest attention from all.

ANUGA TROTTING PARK. On Thursday afternoon, 18th inst., the second of the series of trotting entertainments for the season, under the excellent management of Mr. Geo. M. Delany, came off at the Augusta Trotting Park. The first race was for purses of \$50 and \$25 to the first and second best horses that never beat 2.50, best 3 in 5 to horses. Three horses were entered; one by J. W. Savage b. g. Beauregard; M. H. Scrutton's g. g. Stratford; A. M. Savage br. g. Con. Nutt. The horses started and came home in the order named. Beauregard easily winning the 1st purse in three straight heats—time 2.50, 2.54, 2.56. The second race was for purses \$75 and \$50 for horses that had never beat 2.40, best 3 in 5 to w. g. w. Horses entered were A. M. Savage's b. g. Black Diamond; G. M. Robinson's r. b. w. Aug. G. M. Delany's Richmond Boy. Four heats were trotted, Belle winning the first, and Black Diamond the three last—time 2.45, 2.48, 2.49, 2.55. The first two heats were well contested, showing some of the prettiest trotting we have seen for many a day. The next entertainment on the track will come off on the 4th of July, in connection with the trial of fire engines, and as we understand some of the best horses in the State are entered for the premiums. Good sport may be expected.

NEW GRANITE MILL. Messrs. Barrett & Bradbury, of this city, have rented a portion of the building which is now being rebuilt and enlarged by the Morris Sprague at the Kennebec Dam, for the establishment of a first class grain-mill. Three run of stone and machinery of the latest improvement with a grinding capacity of seventy-five bushels of corn per hour, have been prepared for the purpose, and the mill will soon be in operation. It will be superior to any other mill in this vicinity, and a great convenience to our citizens and the people of the neighboring town.

IN BANGOR. In compliance with an order of the City Council, the Street Commissioner is having the hedges and other woods and grasses cut down along the sides of the streets—an example worthy of imitation by our own authorities.

EP It is expected that Hon. A. B. Farwell and Dr. G. E. Briggs will address the Washingtonian Temperance Meeting at Derby Hall, next Saturday evening.

MEETING TO COMMENCE AT QUARTER BEFORE EIGHT O'CLOCK.—A meeting to commence at quarter before eight o'clock, on Friday evening, June 29, will be held in the

Political Items.

The Democratic State Convention met at Granite Hill in Augusta, on Tuesday last. The number of delegates reported present was 874. Three bands of music were in attendance. Hon. N. S. Littlefield of Bridgton presided, assisted by Vice Presidents representing all the counties. The proceedings were harmonious and enthusiastic. Hon. E. F. Pillsbury, of this city, was nominated by acclamation, candidate for Governor of the State. Richard D. Rice, & J. Anderson, J. C. Madigan, and David E. Hastings, were elected as delegates at large in the National Convention, to be held in New York on the 4th of July next. O'Brien, P. Hoban, Geo. B. Burns and Oliver Moore were elected alternates. John C. Talbot and Philip Estman were elected as Electors at large.

In connection and co-operation with the above, a Committee of Conservative Soldiers and Sailors, numbering 2500 delegates, assembled at Waverly Hall, on W. C. Roberts, was elected President. Resolutions were passed denouncing the republican party, and pledging support to democratic measures and candidates.

Meetings of delegates from the several Congressional Districts in the State, were held in this city on Tuesday last, for the selection of delegates to the 2d District, A. Lincoln of Franklin, and Moses Riggs of Sagadahoc. The National Convention. For the 2d District, Jas. A. Leighton of Knox, and Isaac Reed of Lincoln—but Pendleton men. For the 4th District, Henry Hudson of Piscataquis, and Marcellus Emery of Penobscot—for Pendleton. For the 5th District, P. J. Carlton of Waldo, and S. C. Talbot of Washington—with instructions, although it is understood both gentlemen favor the nomination of Pendleton.

Hon. Wilder E. Farley has been nominated as the congressional candidate for Congress from the 8d District.

The following is the latest authoritative version of the platform upon which Chief Justice Chase will consent to upon the election of the Democratic nomination:

Recognition of the rights of foreign born citizens. Condemnation of military tribunals for the trials of persons not in the army.

Maintainance of the rights of foreign born citizens. Condemnation of military tribunals for the trials of persons not in the army.

Universal amnesty, and the immediate restoration to the Union of the late rebel States with compensation acceptable to a numerical majority of each State.

Suffrage to be entirely under the control of the seven states, with the recommendation that it shall be impartial.

The new constitution of Mississippi was submitted to the people of that State at an election commencing on Monday last. There can be no doubt of the result, as the negro voters greatly outnumber the whites on the registration tests.

The New York World politely bows Judge Chase, and says:

"We should be glad to see Chief Justice Chase follow Mr. Blair and Senator Douglass into the Democratic party; but as he regards negro suffrage as a blessing instead of an atrocious though irretrievable blunder, we do not see how he and the Democratic party can have any bond of fellowship."

The bill for the admission of Arkansas, has been vetoed by the President. The veto was sent to the House on Saturday, and the bill was promptly passed over the veto by a vote of 111 to 81. The Senate Committee on Territories have reported an amendment to the bill for the admission of Colorado, providing that before the admission of that State the Legislature shall ratify the 14th amendment of the Constitution.

The Waterville Mail states that the building of a new dam in place of the old one has been determined on.

Some fifteen to twenty thousand dollars is the expenditure contemplated. Materials and labor are already contracted for. Mr. Thomas J. Emery, of Fairchild, is engaged to take charge of the work. The locality is to be either that of the present dam or a few feet lower.

The Portland Star says in the window of Samuel Chadwick's store in that city, is a sweet potato, that weighs forty pounds. It is 23 inches in length, 9 inches in diameter, and 29 inches in circumference.

It was sent from Cuba by Wm. F. Chadwick, and is supposed to be the largest ever raised on that island.

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The Washington correspondent of the Worcester Spy says a general belief exists that at the present writing Senator Hendricks of Indiana stands the best chance for the Tammany Hall nomination.

The Cincinnati Gazette says the Republican candidates on the Presidential ticket have favored the course pursued by the House on Monday, in taking tobacco and whisky out of the tax bill and putting them into a separate measure, which can be passed promptly.

The same correspondent mentions Mr. Davis of this State as among the prominent candidates for the Speakership of the next Congress.

The Union League of New York, at its last meeting, adopted a resolution directing the name of President Johnson to be struck from the rolls.

The most prominent competitors for Beverly Johnson's seat in the United States Senate are Montgomery Blair and Abijah Gilbert, radical republicans, as U. S. Senators from the State—the former for four and the latter for six years.

The Oxford Democrat says Mr. Gilbert Warren of Denmark, thinks he has discovered gold upon his farm in large quantities.

The Winthrop Bulletin says Mr. A. Robinson sold a Jersey cow to a Waterville gentleman last week for \$225. Winthrop is destined to be the headquarters for this breed of cattle in the State.

A bear, an old bruiser that had baffled the hunters for three years, was caught June 4th, on the place of Andrew J. Davis, of Salem, says the Somers Reporter.

We learn from the Oxford Democrat that Meader, who shot Hansome of Chatham, after three days' examination at Conway, has been discharged from custody.

The carriage spring factory of Wentworth Brothers, at Gardner, was destroyed by fire Wednesday night.

A little boy of Mr. John Brown of Lewiston was missing nearly a week when the body was found on Saturday in the river. The child was between six and seven years of age.

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A lively contest is going on for the republican nomination to Congress from the second and fifth districts in this State. The candidates in the field for the former, are Attorney General Frye, Hon. Nelson Dingey, Washington Gibort, Hon. Sidney Perham and Mr. Morrill, the present Register of Deeds of Franklin county. In the Hancock and Washington district, Hon. F. A. Pike, the present representative, Eugene Hale, Esq., Hon. Wm. McGilvrey and Hon. N. A. Farwell, are the candidates.

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THE MAINE FARMER: AN AGRICULTURAL AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER

Poetry.

THE MOTHER'S PRAYER.
With eager steps a mother pressed
A laughing babe against her breast.
Then stilled she when she cried in prayer:
"Now even as his face is fair,
O Lord! I keep them as my soul's
As my friends'—
The Lord an answer made—
"Indeed! I grant as thou hast prayed."
Within her door the darkness crept,
And babe and mother sweetly slept.
From halcyon by the midnight bell;
The watchful stars were bright.
The man, to his mate said,
"A word to find the babe had died."
With grief to set a woman wild,
She sought and clasped the marble child.—
Was broken, bearing on a stone!
"O God!" she cried, in her despair,
"What have I done?—my son's prayer?"
A man answered her, "I have what,
Thy prayer, O man, is here."
"On the earth thy child remain,
His soul shall gather many a stain;
"All they believe, I stretch my hand,
And take him to the heaven land!"
The man, to his mate said,
"He died not, but against the dead,
And exulted, 'O God! I have not pray'd—
That answer was so strange a way!"
In shadow of a taper's light,
She moved through all the living night;
But when the morning brought the sun,
She said, "Thy will, O God, be done!"
—THOMAS TELF.

Our Story-Teller.

TWICE MARRIED.

September was drawing to an end, and with it the honey moon of two young persons in whom I shall be glad to interest the reader. They had stretched it out in sovereign contempt of the balance of the calendar. That September had thirty days in a truth known to the simplest child; but our young lovers had given it at least forty. Now, however, the time had come when the sun was to set, the evening play had out, and the curtain rise on the drama in which they had undertaken the leading parts. Emma thought very often of the charming little house which was awaiting her in town, and of the servants who were dear mother had provided for her. She had a desire, however, that the young wife let no imagination run riot over the choice groceries with which she expected to find her cupboard stocked through the same kind agency. Moreover, she had left her wedding gown at home, thinking it would be easier to get it back than the country, and she was longing to return before the sun set to the particular shade of a certain lavender silk, and the exact length of a certain train. The reader will see that Emma was a simple unsophisticated person, and that her married life was likely to be made up of small events, and trifles. She addressed her husband, He, too, began to feel that it was time they were married in earnest. His thoughts wandered back to his counting-room and his vacant desk, and to the possible contents of the letters which he had sent to his father, and which he had never received. David, too, was a simple, natural fellow, and although he thought his wife the sweetest of human creatures—or, indeed, for that very reason—he was unable to forget that life is full of bitter inhuman necessities and perils which master in force about you when you stand idle. He, too, began to feel that it was time he should have some happiness for nothing.

The two, therefore had made up their trunks again, and ordered the vehicle in time for the morrow's train. Twilight had come on, and Emma sat at the window, and she felt that she had let into the secret of their young love. They had sat in the shade of every tree, and watched the sunset from the top of every rock.

"We're going to make his fortune with our land," said the young wife to her husband, "and we'll be of such service when Emma had sold gold by sitting for three hours on the grass after a day's rain."

Sitting alone was dull work. Emma crossed the threshold of the long window, and went to the garden gate. The "Wife's" house was a mile away, close to the village. Seeing nothing but the landscape, she strolled along the road, bored, in her shawl. It was a lonely evening. As there was one to say so, Emma said so, with some fervor, to herself, and to this she added a dozen more remarks, and then, taking a walk, she was soon in the shade of every tree, and watched the sunset from the top of every rock.

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